

And my colleague speaks so positively about what's in this bill, but yet he hasn't read the bill. He's telling me he's read the bills that were passed in the Senate and the House, but you don't know. I don't believe anybody knows what's in the final version of this bill. You talk about it being on the Web and being available to people. It's going to be available after it's passed, not before it's passed.

Again, the promises that were made are not being kept. A promise that the President said he would let any bill stay out there for 5 days before it's signed, that's been breached more than it has been kept. The bill, we're supposed to have 48 hours. That was passed unanimously in here to read the bill. That has been not dealt with or not kept to, and it could have been so easy.

Let me tell you the nonpartisan, non-partisan Congressional Budget Office in today's publication says we are going to increase the deficit \$838.1 billion with this bill, and because we know so many of the jobs that are going to be created are going to be government jobs, that are going to stay on the payroll forever, this bill is really going to cost \$3 trillion. \$3 trillion. I'm concerned about my children and grandchildren and great-grandchildren and more because we are loading them up with a debt that is irresponsible. This is generational abuse. We're taking the easy road out and giving the burden to our future generations.

And I want to say, since we were going to talk about President Lincoln, some of the things he said. "You cannot bring about prosperity by discouraging thrift. You cannot borrow your way to prosperity."

This is what is happening. It's a shame that today, when we're supposed to be honoring Lincoln on his birthday, that we are doing absolutely the opposite of everything that Lincoln stood for. We are borrowing our way or trying to borrow our way into prosperity, and it never works.

We can't "strengthen the weak by weakening the strong," Lincoln said. "You cannot help small men by tearing down big men. You cannot help the poor by destroying the rich. You cannot lift the wage-earner by pulling down the wage-payer. You cannot keep out of trouble by spending more than your income."

That's the role that the Democrats have taken, go in the direction opposite of what Lincoln preached. I think it's a sad day in our country when we say we're going to honor Lincoln, and we go just in the opposite of the values he stood for.

Madam Speaker, could I inquire as to how much time is left.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from North Carolina has 2½ minutes remaining. The gentleman from Colorado has 10 minutes remaining.

Ms. FOXX. Thank you, Madam Speaker. I will close.

As my colleague has said, we're here to debate a rule which is going to allow

us to deal with four fairly good bills today, but that's not all that the rule is going to allow us to deal with. It's an open-ended rule. Many, many things can come up under this rule, and it's not the kind of rule that we should be voting on.

We have lots of quotes that I'm not going to give today about how the majority has said that we should do things in regular order; we should revert to doing things the right way in this body. We're not doing that. We had a wonderful opportunity to do that with this bill, but we're not.

I have no objections to congratulating the Pittsburgh Steelers, to supporting the goals and ideals of American Heart Month. Certainly, I am extremely in favor of commemorating the life and legacy of President Abraham Lincoln, the first Republican President, the President who freed the slaves and who kept this country together, or in terms of naming a post office. But what we should be dealing with is the so-called stimulus bill that we know is going to come to us without the proper debate.

Republicans are very concerned about the recession we find ourselves in. We are very concerned about the American people who are hurting. We want to deal with those issues. We have a plan. We have an alternative. We want a stimulus bill that will work.

As I've said, I think this is a cruel hoax on the American people because they're expecting something good to happen, and they're expecting it to happen right away, and that isn't going to be the case.

My heart goes out to those who have lost their jobs and who are going to be fooled into thinking that what the Democrats are doing with this bill is going to bring about real progress in this country.

So I will urge my colleagues to vote against the rule, not because of the bills that we're going to be dealing with today as a result of the rule, but because of other things that might come up and because of the very serious nature of the issues we're facing that we're not dealing with.

With that, I yield back, Madam Speaker.

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, just by way of closing, I want to remind everyone, we're here on House Resolution 157, which is to allow us to hear certain bills under suspension today and tomorrow. Among those are bills concerning American Heart Month; Abraham Lincoln, his 200th birthday; Ms. Ephraim, who was a leading citizen in Sparta, Georgia; and then, of course, the Pittsburgh Steelers. Also, we're asking that on Fridays and Saturdays for the rest of the year that we begin business at 9 o'clock in the morning as opposed to 10 o'clock.

That's the resolution that's before the body today. We've had a lot of discussion about the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, which has been debated really as part of the election,

through the end of the year, through this last month, and it will be debated hotly, I'm sure, today and tomorrow concerning how to get this Nation back on track.

I just want to read something from Mark Zandi, again, an adviser to Senator JOHN MCCAIN, but somebody who, as many economists across the country, is concerned about this Nation and its economy in terrific terms. This is what he says on page 17: "The financial system is in disarray, and the economy's struggles are intensifying. Policy-makers are working hard to quell the panic and shore up the economy; but considering the magnitude of the crisis and the continuing risks, policy-makers must be aggressive. Whether from a natural disaster, a terrorist attack, or a financial calamity, crises end only with overwhelming government action."

That's what we will see in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. It's about jobs, maintaining and creating 3.5 million jobs. It isn't the end. There will be a series of measures taken, and it will take time to get this Nation back on track. It took time to get into this ditch. It's going to take time to get out. But we're acting about it. It's going to be done.

With that, Madam Speaker, I urge a "yes" vote on the previous question.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The previous question was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 28 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 1300

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HOLDEN) at 1 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order: